

Special Instructions for Submitting Specimens to
City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory for
Testing for Mumps Virus

- Keep specimens refrigerated until shipping.
- Specimens should be kept cool but not frozen (e.g., in a Styrofoam container with wet ice), and submitted as soon as possible after collection (preferably same day delivery)
- Include an MHD lab request Virus Specimen Submission form H-445 for each specimen submitted. If original lab-slip forms are not readily available please obtain one from our website: www.milwaukee.gov/mumps
- Before the specimen is sent, notify an epidemiologist at Milwaukee Health Department's Survnet 414-286-3624
- Label the tubes/containers with patient name, date of birth, date collected and type of specimen collected
- Send to MHD Public Health Laboratory via overnight shipping:
MHD Public Health Laboratories
Attn: Virology Section
841 North Broadway, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202
- Specimens submitted for mumps virus testing should include:
 - serums (acute and convalescent, drawn 2-4 weeks apart—use red top or marble top tubes or serum separator tubes with no anticoagulants)
 - a parotid duct (Stenson's duct) swab collected with a Rayon or Dacson swab (Don't use swabs with wooden sticks or with calcium alginate (eg. "Calgi-swabs)) and placed in M-4 medium (available at most hospital laboratories) or collected with a viral culturette
 - 5-10 ml. of clean voided urine
- Serums will be analyzed for mumps virus specific IgG and IgM antibody. Parotid duct swabs and urines will be inoculated onto cell cultures for isolation of mumps virus. Depending on the amount of virus present in the sample, culture results can take from 2-10 days. The City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory does not currently offer PCR testing for mumps. Turn-around time for serologic tests is usually 24-72 hours. All serums submitted to the City Virus Lab will also be forwarded to the State Laboratory for confirmation of results.